

Executive Summary

Faculty Development in Health Physics at Louisiana State University

Louisiana State University, in partnership with Entergy Corporation and The Shaw Group, has recently initiated a Nuclear Power Workforce Development Program. This is a cohesive interdepartment effort involving the Colleges of Basic Science and Engineering at LSU, leveraging both industrial and academic support, which aims to develop a comprehensive program in Nuclear Engineering (offered by the Mechanical Engineering Department) and Health Physics (offered by the Department of Physics & Astronomy). The development of a new curriculum and recruitment of students is currently underway, supported by the NRC Curriculum Development and Undergraduate Scholarship Programs. In order to attain long-term sustainability, the present proposal requests support for two new faculty positions in Health Physics to perform research and teach courses required for both the Health Physics and Nuclear Engineering students in the program. Funds will be used to attract and retain two highly qualified faculty who will play an integral role in maintaining and advancing the LSU Nuclear Power Workforce Development Program, and will collaborate with existing faculty in Mechanical Engineering and in the Health & Medical Physics program in Physics & Astronomy. These positions will be leveraged using LSU funds and direct financial support from our industrial partners. An Advisory Committee consisting of both industry representatives and academic peers will aid the selection of the new hires, assess the progress of the new faculty, oversee the curriculum and industry internship program, and monitor the progress of students and their placement and success in jobs in industry. In addition, the professional growth of the new faculty will be enhanced by research participation and interaction with our industrial partners. The total requested funding is \$450,000 over three years.

Principal Investigator: Michael L. Cherry, cherry@lsu.edu